

INFLUENCING GLOBAL ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

The challenge of mobilizing global alliances and partnerships around shared interests and values has been at the center of the debate on America's role in the world. As former Secretary of Defense James Mattis [observed](#), "Nations with allies thrive, nations without allies wither." USGLC's [Roadmap for U.S. Global Leadership: Report on Reports](#) identified areas of consensus in a review of recommendations by over 120 think tanks across the political spectrum ahead of the 2020 presidential election:

- Renew global alliances and partnerships.
- Lead with diplomacy in addressing global challenges.
- Bolster diplomatic capacity.
- Modernize the foreign service.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- **40%:** Percentage of world GDP made up of the economies of the United States and Europe, which also make up more than 40% of global trade in goods and services.
- **One billion:** Number COVID-19 doses that the Quad -- the United States, Japan, India, and Australia -- [committed](#) to manufacture and deliver across Asia by the end of 2022.
- **\$10 billion:** Investment by the United States in Plan Colombia over 15 years, and Colombia now exports \$15 billion each year to the United States, up 400% since 2000.

RENEW GLOBAL ALLIANCES AND PARTNERS

There is widespread consensus across the political spectrum on the need for the United States to renew alliances with traditional partners like Canada, the European Union, and the United Kingdom and to work with its strategic allies in Africa, the Indo-Pacific, and Latin America.

Key Facts:

- Article 5 from NATO's Founding Treaty -- which says that an armed attack on any NATO member will be treated as an armed attack against all members -- was invoked for the first and only time to support the United States after the terrorist attacks on 9/11.
- NATO member states have continued to meet their commitments to increase spending on defense at the 2014 Wales Summit. In 2020, non-U.S. NATO members spent \$313 billion on defense, an increase of over \$80 billion from [2014](#).
- The 10 nations that comprise ASEAN are [collectively](#) the United States' fourth-largest trading partner and eleventh-largest goods trading partner with \$292.4 billion in goods trade in 2019.

BOLSTERING DIPLOMATIC CAPACITY

The State Department -- America's lead agency for diplomacy-- suffered from repeated proposed dramatic budget cuts in recent years, as well as an 18-month hiring freeze that left the department

under-staffed, and an unusually high number of senior positions and ambassadorships filled by political appointees rather than Foreign Service Officers.

Key Facts:

- The State Department faced proposals for budget cuts as high as 37% in 2017, although these cuts were rejected by Congress.
- Nearly a quarter of the senior Foreign Service had left the State Department by 2020, including 60 percent of the career Ambassadors, the equivalent of four-star generals in the military.
- While over 30,000 people took the [exam to enter the Foreign Service](#) in fiscal year 2002, just over 20,000 people took it in 2010, and less than 10,000 people took it in 2019.

MODERNIZING THE FOREIGN SERVICE

Congress [last updated](#) the Foreign Service Act in 1980 -- addressing the policies, standards, and practices of members of the Foreign Service who serve at the State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, Foreign Agricultural Service, Foreign Commercial Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and U.S. Agency for Global Media – although the House recently passed the first authorization bill for the State Department in nearly two decades, calling on the Senate to enable the bill to be signed into law.

Key Facts:

- Four out of 189 Ambassadors abroad were African Americans in 2020, and just 8% of the overall Foreign Service was made up of African Americans, and 8% was Hispanic, well-below their representation in the U.S. labor force.
- More than 60% of positions at the Assistant Secretary level and above were held by career Foreign Service Officers in 1975, but only 8% of leadership positions were held by career officials in [April 2020](#).

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS

- **Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ):** “One of the core organizing principles I would suggest is the importance of working in close coordination with our allies and partners to develop a shared and effective approach to China... Our alliances, our partnerships, and the shared values on which they stand and our reliability in the face of adversity are our special source for effective global leadership.”
- **Senator Jim Risch (R-ID):** “[The Indo-Pacific] is home to some of our strongest alliances and partnerships, and it is also the primary arena of competition with the People’s Republic of China.”
- **Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX):** “Now is the time for us to recommit to multilateral diplomacy as part of international organizations in order to address humanity’s shared challenges. American leadership at the United Nations and other international organizations is more important than ever.”
- **Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH):** “We must work with our allies and partners to hold China to the same rules that everybody else follows and impose penalties when they do not. It’s imperative that America rises to this challenge. We must sustain and build our alliances and partnerships. I have long favored a robust U.S. engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.”